GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:938
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2015
Genetically Modified Foods
Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the impact of genetically modified food on people"s health in the country and if so, the details along with the outcome thereof;

(b) the details of the existing laws in respect of Genetically Modified Food products being manufactured and imported in the country; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure strict compliance of the laws/regulations in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)
(a) : No such study has been conducted by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
(b): The Genetically Modified foods are, at present, regulated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in terms of Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro organisms/Genetically Engineering Organisms or Cells, 1989 under the provision of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
(c): Under the provisions of the aforesaid Rules, no person can import, export, transport, Manufacture use or sell any Genetically Modified material without the prior approval of Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC). In accordance with the Government of India policy, a view on Genetically Modified crop is taken only after carrying out proper scientific valuation of its biosafety and impact on environment and consumers. Introduction of any new Genetically Modified crop / food is preceded by a careful analysis of risks and evaluation of long term benefits for which suitable rules and guidelines have been framed by the Government.